

Applicants : Michael L. Lanser et al.
Appln. No. : 10/776,865
Page : 7

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings, which includes Fig. 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, previously omitted reference character 19 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Applicants : Michael L. Lanser et al.
Appln. No. : 10/776,865
Page : 8

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. Applicants enclose herewith a new Fig. 3 including reference number 19. Formal approval of the enclosed drawing is respectfully requested.

Applicants have also added "and the" to line 6 of claim 8 to correct informality noted by the Examiner.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-8 and 15-18 are allowed, and that claim 13 contains allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action dated June 21, 2004, claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Miwa JP 405286362A. Applicants respectfully transverse the rejection for those reasons set forth below.

Claim 9, as amended herein, recites a torque control member having at least a portion thereof received in the slot of a body member and slidingly and frictionally engaging the slot and controlling sliding movement of the body member along the elbow member.

In contrast, Miwa '362 discloses a shaft body 5 (elbow) that is connected rotatably into a sliding body 21. Sliding body 21 is close-inserted slidably and with rotation stopper provided into the tube of guide tube 17. The "locking member" 30 of Miwa '362 does not appear to in any way slide in sliding body 21. Clearly, Miwa '362 does not disclose a torque control member that slides in a slot of a body member as recited in amended claim 9, such that claim 9 is not anticipated by Miwa '362. Applicants further submit that substantial modification of Miwa '362 would be required to provide the arrangement of amended claim 9, and the cited references do not teach or suggest any such modifications.

Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9, and are therefore believed to be allowable for those reasons set forth above with respect to claim 9.

Applicants have also added new claims 19-22. New claims 19-22 are believed to be allowable for substantially the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 9.

Applicants have made a concerted effort to place the present application in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event there are any

Applicants : Michael L. Lanser et al.
Appln. No. : 10/776,865
Page : 9

remaining informalities, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL L. LANSER ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton, LLP

9/12/04
Date

Jeffrey S. Kapteyn
Jeffrey S. Kapteyn
Registration No. 41 883
695 Kenmoor, S.E.
Post Office Box 2567
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
(616) 949-9610

JSK/cmu